

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Takes 1st Place in 2011 Field Day

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA, operating as W4DXA from the QTH of KI4TZ, won Category 3E nationwide in this year's Field Day event. W4DXA scored 8,550 points. The second place entry scored 8,094 points. This was considerably closer than our winning margins in previous years. You can read how we did this on page 1 of the July 2010 Pileup (<http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1107.pdf>).

Here are some different ways to compare our score to others:

- o W4DXA was 1st among the 17 entries in Category 3E.
- o W4DXA was 1st among all 33 entries in the South Carolina Section.

o W4DXA was 9th among all 198 entries in the Roanoke Division.

o W4DXA was 83rd among all 2,632 entries in all categories.

So, it was another winning W4DXA Field Day effort. Planning has started for Field Day 2012 when we will return to KI4TZ's QTH. We will need more CW operators to be sure of continuing our winning streak. Please put Field Day on your schedule for June 23 and 24, 2012.

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC



Amateur Radio—THE Original Social Network

Coming soon . . . CDXA coming soon on Twitter, Facebook and Google+! Stay tuned, more information on www.cdxa.org.

Welcome New Members

As contest season rolls around and with the annual Barbeque event, CDXA usually finds a few new members in our midst. The year 2011 did not disappoint us. Shortly after the Barbeque we learned that **Tom Moore (K4DRV)** of Charlotte, **Ernesto Marquez (N4LED)** of Conover NC, and **Frank Styron (W4CWA)** of Cary NC have become members of CDXA.

Then in late October **Barry Pfeil (K6RM)** of Bolivia, NC arrived in North Carolina from California. Barry is sorting out some CC&R issues but is anxious to get on the air in whatever way he can. Is there anybody running a multi-two or multi-multi that needs help for contest season?

Finally, just as the CQWW-SSB weekend was upon us, **Charles Davis (WA3UTC)** of Apex NC became a new member.

Welcome to all the new members.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

From the "Other Side"

Most of you are aware of our "Italian Connection" with Fabrizio "Brix" Vedovelli (IN3ZNR) and Mauro Tomazzoni (IN3QBR). Did you also know we have a "Spanish Connection" of sorts with Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez (EA5RM)? Brix and Tony are good friends as well as moving forces in making DX happen. They have been leaders of DXpeditions in recent years to Western Sahara (S04R), Rwanda (9X0R), Palestine (E4X), and Southern Sudan (ST0R). If you check the CDXA website, you'll find that CDXA sponsored three of those DXpeditions and our logo appears on the QSL card.

For the recent ST0R DXpedition, CDXA sent our 2011 Field Day t-shirts to Fabrizio and Antonio so that they could wear our colors while operating. Unfortunately, the mail connection missed their departure, so our shirts remained in Trento, Italy while Brix was off in Juba, Southern Sudan. To make things right, Brix and Tony wore their CDXA shirts during CQWW SSB 2011 while they operated as C37N from Andorra up in the Pyrenees Mountains between Spain and France. Following is Brix' note about that operation:

"Hello John, we had a beautiful effort from Andorra. C37N did 15,800 QSO's as Multi-Multi and with a limited antenna farm. We had outstanding propagation all over high bands. Many CDXA members are in the logs. I remember for sure N4PQX and others. Along with this note I'm sending you a picture snapped during some rest near C37N facilities. You can see that CDXA was there (IN3ZNR-WH0Q left EA5RM right side)!! Share picture as you see fit. I'll send you some stories later. Best 73, Brix (IN3ZNR-WH0Q)."



IN3ZNR and EA5RM rest in the midst of CQWW SSB action wearing their CDXA T-shirts.

Roving Reporter Visits Tom Lewis, N4TL

The Roving Reporter took his notebook to Raleigh this month to meet with Tom Lewis (N4TL) so we can get to know some of our members on the “eastern front” a little better.

Roving Reporter (RR): I always get started in these interviews by asking our members how they got started in amateur radio, and then we’ll just follow the road to where that takes us. What were your “beginnings”?

Tom Lewis (N4TL): My Dad had taken a radio mail order course after WW2. I found the course material and read it all. I wish I had them now. I also took a night school class on radio when I was in the 9th or 10th grade. One of my Dad’s friends was the instructor, so I was able to take it for free. Then my Grandmother gave me some Popular Electronics magazines. They had information on Ham Radio. I wrote to the ARRL and received a free copy of QST. Then I subscribed and ordered an ARRL Handbook. I built a two tube transmitter and my Dad had a Hallicrafters S-107. I’d guess you’d say I was “hooked” by then.

RR: When did all that lead to you becoming a ham?

N4TL: I received my first license in 1965 when I was 17. I never made a contact on that home brew transmitter. I was able to make four contacts as a novice in 1966 after buying an Eico 60 watt transmitter. I tried to upgrade to General Class in 1966 and failed the code test. I was only able to take the exam when the FCC examiner was in Syracuse, NY. I did pass the test in 1967, and I have been licensed ever since.

RR: Did you have an “Elmer”?

N4TL: No, I did not. I think I could have done much better as a Novice if I had one. I started out with a Gotham vertical. I grounded it with some bell wire to a water pipe. It did not work very well, and you can guess why! After becoming a General, I put up a dipole then I started making contacts.

RR: With all your years in Ham Radio and some home-brewing in your background, do you have a favorite rig?

N4TL: I’d say my favorite rig is the Icom 756Pro3 that I’m currently using. It’s fine for me. With all the technology advances of the past 50 years, it is hard to choose earlier technology if you are after performance. Now if some eye-popping performance comes along in a future rig

I also fix up old broadcast receivers from the 1930s and 40s. So I purchased a Hallicrafters SR-160 at the last Raleigh Hamfest. I plan on getting it working and making a few contacts on it for old times sake.

RR: Can I presume as a member of a DX club that DX has been a significant interest of yours?

N4TL: Yes, I have DXCC on 8 bands, and I am on the DXCC Honor Roll on CW and SSB. I also hold Top of the Honor Roll in the Mixed category. If I had only been able to work BS7, Scarborough Reef, on SSB I would have all of them on SSB. I need 8 more on CW. I have 99 entities confirmed on 6 meters. I am waiting on a card from Denmark and then I will have DXCC on 6 meters.

RR: It sounds to me like you and the XYL should take a trip to Denmark to procure your QSL card! It’s a good excuse to go. What role has contesting had in your years in amateur radio?

N4TL: I enjoy it in a fashion, but I don’t get on for the whole contest. I usually make 100 to 300 contacts. Along the way it has been a way to collect DXCC entities. I have a 5 million point award from PVRC. It only took me 10 years or so to make it. Some others who are into contesting more have done it in 1 to 2 years.

RR: How did you get started in DXing?

N4TL: When I became more active after college, getting married etc, I had worked about 70 or 80 countries and found it fun. So, I decided to get DXCC and after that I found it fun to keep going. As I already mentioned, contesting was a way to build my DXCC totals.

RR: What kind of antenna farm do you have that permitted you to do so well in collecting DXCC entities?

N4TL: Currently I have a crank up tower with two Cushcraft antennas. One covers 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m. The other covers the 30m, 17m and 12m WARC bands. I have an inverted-Vee on the tower for 80m and 40m. Hanging out there is an inverted L for 160m. I have a second tower with a 2 meter beam and two stacked 5 element, 6 meter beams.

RR: Has amateur radio affected your life in any significant way?

N4TL: That early interest in radio and electronics must have been a precursor to my career choice. I became an Electrical Engineer because of my interest in radio and electronics. I have a Masters degree in EE. I

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can remember my high school guidance counselor talking to me about my interests and what I wanted to do. She told me my interest and aptitude profiles suggested I should go to college and become an engineer. I did not even know what an engineer did at the time!

RR: Are any members of your immediate family hams?

N4TL: None are hams, and that's okay. We all have our own interests.

RR: What was your most memorable moment as a ham?

N4TL: I use to get up early when I was trying to build my DXCC entity count. One morning I heard a station in South Korea calling CQ. I was able to contact him. He was a dentist in the US military. It was nice to talk to him rather than just your usual "59 and Bye". That was in the days before the packet cluster. We had to find the DX by tuning around.

Last October I started entering all my old paper logs into my computer. I completed the project on July 2011. That is when I remembered that I had only made 4 two way contacts when I was a novice. Also, I made 276 contacts in my first 11 years. I really became active when we moved to our second house in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. I bought some used equipment—a Hallicrafters FPM300 transceiver, a tower, and a beam. In 1977 I made 1076 contacts. I wrote a program to make it easier to enter my old logs. I also wrote a statistics program that will read an ADIF file and generate statistics. Those statistics can be brought into a spread sheet and a chart made. It was interesting to look at my chart and think about what I was doing during some of those years past.

RR: How did you come to know about CDXA?

N4TL: Bill McDowell, K4CIA, is a member and he lives about 1½ miles from me. I also used the CDXA packet cluster. We have a group of DXers that get together here in Raleigh on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5PM for dinner. I became familiar with CDXA activities from those relations.

RR: That about wraps it up, Tom. Thanks for giving us a glimpse into your life in amateur radio.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

Ten Years Ago. . . .

The Amateur Radio Education Center at Discovery Place was celebrating its tenth anniversary of operating from the science center, and CDXA Member Bob Southworth (KI4YV) was honored as the station manager during its first ten years of operation Reports of CDXA members rambling over the estate of Frank Dowd in a WW II military vehicle were just beginning to appear along with photos Paul Ponak arranged for a Special Event Station at Discovery Place to celebrate the 20th year of its operation. CDXA Members participating in the operation were: Paul Ponak (AD4IE), Bob Southworth (KI4YV), Joe Blackwell (AA4NN), Andy Hawkins (K4GKK), and John Scott (K8YC) A reprinted article of a revolutionary FM broadcast antenna developed by Thomas Silliman's Electronics Research, Inc. created some interest amongst CDXAers trying to push the envelope.

Twenty Years Ago. . . .

Only five issue of the Pileup were produced in 1991, and most of 1991's "happenings" have been reported in this year's editions of "Ten and Twenty Years Ago."

On the Importance of Listening!

By John Scott, K8YC

A cardinal rule of DXing is to "Listen, Listen, and then Listen"! This rule was pounded home to me on 1 November 2011. I was listening to the 10 meter band trying to add a few RTTY QSOs in pursuit of my first 100 DXCC entities using this mode. Spotted on the CDXA cluster was a Latvian ham operating from Nigeria as 5N6/Homecall.

When I first saw him spotted, I found a gang of Europeans all calling frantically on the simplex frequency. With all the mixed digital signals, I saw mostly garbled hash on my screen. Only occasionally did I see a "5N6/ . . ." sneak through. I continued to listen hoping I'd see the DX split his transmission. Then, magically I saw the call SV2ASP/A roll across the screen. Monk Apollo was calling the 5N6 and jumping into that morass!

My hunch was that Monk Apollo was just making some recreational use of what little free time he has. Maybe if he had a "scope" on his transceiver, and maybe if I called CQ he'd come up and try to call me! I spun the dial up about 8 KHz to be free of signals seen on my scope, and I called CQ. The first call that came back

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was SV2ASP/A. The call came so fast that I still had the 5N6 in the macro slot on my MMTTY software. I composed myself enough to get Apollo's callsign and name in the correct fields and sent him a short note via RTTY that I heard him trying to work the 5N6 and hoped he'd see me. Contact confirmed via his reply. There you go—a new band and a new mode for a very rare entity because I was listening. Thank you, Dave Kennedy (N4SU-SK) and all the other old time hams for teaching me the importance of listening before jumping into the fray.

And, I just noticed after spending 15 years learning from the “old timers”, I've become one!



2011 Holiday Party/Annual Meeting

When: Thursday, December 8th
Time: Cocktail Hour—6:30 PM, Sit Down Dinner—7:20 PM

Where: Carolina Prime Steakhouse
 225 East Woodlawn Road
 Charlotte, NC

Fare: PRIME RIB, GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST, FRESH SALMON, OR HONEY BABY BACK RIBS All of the above served with: Soup, House Salad, Choice of potato or Steamed Vegetables, Bread, Soft Drink, Iced Tea or Coffee. VEGETARIAN MEAL (available upon request) Cost: \$23 includes tax and gratuity.

Libation: Cash bar for beer, wine and cocktails

We have lots of space at this venue. Election of officers for 2012 will be conducted at the annual meeting and CWAC awards will be presented. Prizes sponsored by ARRL. Besides that, we'll just have a good time!

Make your reservation under the “Coming Events” tab on the CDXA website or call VP Bill Fisher at 704-307-2206.



DX King News

By Dick Williams,
W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a 26 inch LCD flat panel television are on page 8 of the January Pileup

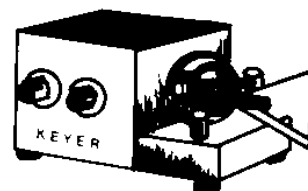
<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1101.pdf>.

Item 2: Here are the 2011 DX King scores I have as of October 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	271	40	311
W3OA	Unlimited	261	40	301
WA4DT	Unlimited	260	40	300
W3GQ	Unlimited	254	40	294
K3XC	Unlimited	254	40	294
W4HG	Unlimited	253	40	293
N4ZC	Unlimited	251	40	291
N4PQX	Unlimited	235	40	275
KZ2I	Unlimited	231	40	271
K1MIJ	Unlimited	214	39	253
W1AJT	Unlimited	208	39	247
W3ZL	Formula	207	38	245
K8YC	Unlimited	204	40	244
N2TU	Unlimited	187	39	226
K2SX	Unlimited	194	39	233
W4UFO	Unlimited	166	40	206
W4NZC	Formula	160	35	195
W4WNT	Formula	146	32	178
K4ESE*	Unlimited	139	36	175
K3IRV	Formula	126	31	157
NK0S	Unlimited	104	31	135
AF1E	Unlimited	82	24	106

*All 80 meters

Item 3: Don't forget to send me your DX marathon scores (w3oa@roadrunner.com) as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.



CDXA Skimmer Network in CQWW

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA will again be providing CW Skimmer spots for this month's CQWW contest. The plan is to have single band Skimmers running at K4DXA, N2TU, and W3GQ and a six band Skimmer at W3OA. We can easily add more locations so please let me know if you will be running a Skimmer and would like your spots available for other CDXA members.

Users will be able to get spots from the traditional Packet Cluster system plus spots from Skimmers in different sized geographical areas. These areas can be from one Skimmer to one state all the way up to the whole World.

Here are a couple of ways you can use this system:

1) The simplest way to use the system involves just setting up N1MM to use the server at w3oa.no-ip.org as your source for Telnet spots. I've set up that node so that when users first connect they will get the normal human generated spots plus spots for known contest stations that come from Skimmers in North Carolina or South Carolina. If you would prefer to have a different default filter in place when you connect to w3oa.no-ip.org just let me know what you want and I'll set it up for you.

2) You can change the filter used to determine which spots you get by sending the appropriate command string from the N1MM Telnet window to the server. In my case, I want to be able to select different size geographical areas for the Skimmers sending me spots so I'll have a number of different strings to choose from. An example command string is:

set dx filter (not skimmer) or (spottercont=NA and master)

(Editor's note: The CDXA Skimmer server is using a newer version of AR Cluster software (version 6) that has an enlarged set of filter parameters, such as "spotterstate", "spotterituzone", "spottercont". For a list of those parameters and a discussion of filter options visit <http://www.ab5k.net/arcsover6/usermanual/arcdx.htm>. The "and" and "or" used in the filter strings are logical expressions.)

The (not skimmer) clause means I want to see the traditional Cluster spots from humans. The (spottercont=NA and master) clause means I also want to see spots for stations that are in the master list of known contest stations and which come from Skimmers in North America.

For my contest setup, I will edit six of N1MM's Telnet buttons to send six different strings for different spotter source areas. You can do this by opening the Telnet window in N1MM and right clicking on the macro tabs. This will open a small database in which you can edit the Button Label and associated Strings.

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Button Label	String
CDXA	set dx filter (not skimmer) or ((spotter=w3oa-# or spotter=k4dxa-# or spotter=w3gq-# or spotter=n2tu-#) and master)
NC,SC	set dx filter (not skimmer) or ((spotterstate=nc or spotterstate=sc) and master)
So East	set dx filter (not skimmer) or ((spotterstate=nc or spotterstate=sc or spotterstate=tn or spotterstate=al or spotterstate=ga or spotterstate=fl) and master)
East US	set dx filter (not skimmer) or (spotterituzone=8 and master)
No Amer	set dx filter (not skimmer) or (spottercont=NA and master)
World	set dx filter

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By having several options as Telnet tabs, you can change the spotter source area on the fly during the contest. There are lots of other variations you may want to try.

There are a couple of problems you might encounter with N1MM.

- o You can send commands to the W3OA server by entering them into the "Type:" box at the top of the Telnet Window. But if you put an "=" sign in that box the radio starts transmitting (an N1MM feature). So substitute the macro command word "{EQUAL}" for "=" sign to avoid this problem.
- o N1MM has built in filters to control what is shown in the "Available Mults and Qs" window. You can set these from the right click options on that window. If you don't see all the spots you expect it might be because these filters are set too tight.

The server at W3OA will be running from November 19th until the contest is over. This gives you time to get set up to use the server before the contest starts. All testing and calls to me should be done BEFORE the contest begins, because I expect to have limited availability during the contest!

Let me know (w3oa@roadrunner.com) if you'd like some help getting set up to use the CDXA contesting resources.

CDXA Will Award Prizes in ARRL Ten Meter Contest

(Ten Meters Is Back – Join the Fun)

CDXA is continuing our efforts to improve our standing in the Ten Meter Club Competition. In 2009 we were number 27 of 28 entries. In 2010 we made a big jump up to number 8 of 30. In order to continue improving we will again give Outback Steak House gift cards to three top scoring CDXA members and raffle off a forth among all other CDXA participants making 100 or more QSOs.

More important points:

- o Contest starts at 7 pm Friday, December 9th, and ends at 7 pm Sunday. Operate no more than 36 hours.
- o Once again the 32 states of Mexico count as multipliers. See <http://www.dxex.org/concurso/xemults.pdf> for a list of these states along with a map and other relevant information.
- o Make sure your logging software is up to date and scores the Mexican multipliers.
- o The exchange is just a signal report and state.
- o Review the contest rules at <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>.
- o The top three scoring entries will receive a \$50 Outback Steak House gift card.

- o A fourth prize of a \$50 Outback Steak House gift card will be raffled off among other CDXA members who complete 100 or more QSOs. This includes operators at multi operator-stations whose score will count for CDXA.
- o Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition (meet the 175 mile radius criteria) as defined in the contest rules can win the Gift Cards.
- o Prizes will be based on claimed scores. You must send your score to w3oa@roadrunner.com by December 19 to be eligible for a prize.

So, get on the air and have some fun on ten meters!

It Has Been a Long Year . . .

Therefore, it is time for a little light-hearted humor.

- o Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Definitions:

- o Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.
- o Reintarnation : Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- o Karmageddon : It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

Annual December Elections of 2012 Officers

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting/Holiday Party of the Carolina DX Association is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2011 at Carolina Prime Steakhouse; 225 East Woodlawn Road; Charlotte, NC immediately following dinner at approximately 8:00PM. CDXA will elect its officers to serve for the 2012 calendar year at that time. Incumbents and nominees who have expressed a willingness to serve for 2012 are listed on the ballot below, but anyone willing to serve as an officer may be nominated. Therefore, anyone wishing to run for any office should make his/her desire known to the Nominating Official, Sam Hawes (K4DGJ) at hamk4dgj@aol.com to have their name put into nomination at the Annual Meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, please make sure that person is willing to serve, if elected. You may cast a write-in vote for any office, as long as the write-in candidate has agreed to serve, if elected.

Proxy voting for the Annual Meeting/Election of Officer was adopted by the membership as a By-Law provision at an earlier Annual Meeting. A proxy is attached below. Write-in votes may be cast by filling in the appropriate blank on the proxy. *Send your proxy to the Secretary-Treasurer to arrive at least one week before the annual meeting.*

Carolina DX Association Proxy for Annual Meeting/Election of 2012 Officers To be held on December 8, 2012



I, _____, a member in good standing, do hereby appoint Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL), current CDXA Secretary/Treasurer as my proxy to vote my choice for CDXA 2012 officers. If I decide to attend the meeting in person, I reserve the right to withdraw this proxy and vote my choices in person.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

President	_____ Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF)	_____ Write-In
Vice-President	_____ Bill Fisher (W4GRW)	_____ Write-In
Secretary-Treasurer	_____ Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL)	_____ Write-In
Newsletter Editor	_____ John Forbus (NV4A)	_____ Write-In
Cluster Manager	_____ Joe Simpkins (K4MD)	_____ Write-In
Contest Manager	_____ Dick Williams (W3OA)	_____ Write-In

Send executed proxy by December 1 to: Cliff Wagoner, P.O. Box 577, Davidson, NC 28036

The Back Page

CDXA Tops its Class in FD 2011, again! But, we'll need help in 2012. See Page 1.

New members just keep appearing. Five new members arrived in October. See Page 2.

Did you work C37N in CQWW-SSB? Someone you know was there! See Page 2.

The **Roving Reporter** roamed over towards Raleigh this month to visit Tom Lewis, N4TL. See Page 3.

Do you know what you were doing **10 years ago**? See Page 4.

Rule number one of DXing—Listen, listen, and then listen. A living example. See Page 4.

2011 Holiday Party/Annual Meeting is December 8. Have you signed up yet? See Page 5.

Nominations are open for CDXA Officers. Contact Sam Hawes if you or someone you know wants to serve. See Page 8 for details..

Vote your proxy if you'll not be attending the Annual Meeting. Details on Page 8.

The recent sunspot activity has accelerated **DX King** numbers. See how the race progresses on Page 5.

The **CDXA Skimmer network** has been improved yet again for CQWW-CW. If you work “assisted” and have not tried it, you should. But, start your preparations now so all the kinks are worked out. See Page 6.

Prizes in the Ten Meter Contest—2011 are coming! See Page 6.

Good year or bad, end it with a **smile on your face**. Merely turn to Page 7.

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
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Davidson, NC 28036

jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.